least one of the carboxyl terminus and the amino terminus of the polypeptide.

40. The SCR3-derived polypeptide according to claim 39, wherein the chemically reactive amino acid residue is derivatized or derivatizable.

41. The SCR3-derived polypeptide according to claim 40, wherein the terminal amino acid residue is cysteine derivatized with S- (2-pyridyl) dithio.

42. The SCR3-derived polypeptide according to claim 37, wherein the polypeptide is altered at specific positions to remove chemically reactive amino acids.

43. A multimeric polypeptide comprising at least two SCR3-derived polypeptides having 6 to 23 amino acid residues and comprising at least a portion of Sequence (I) (SEQ ID NO:1):

CNPGSGGRKVFELVGEPSIYCTSNDDQVGIWSG (I), wherein the polypeptide has at least one amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of:

(a) GGRKVF (residues 6-11 of SEQ ID NO:1), and

(b) FELVGEPSIY (residues 11-20 of SEQ ID NO:1), wherein the polypeptides are linked to a core structure.

44. The multimeric polypeptide according to claim 43, wherein the core structure is a lysine derivative.

45. The multimeric polypeptide according to claim 43, wherein the core structure is $(lys)_4(lys)_2$ lys ala (SEQ ID NO:2) or Tris (aminoethyl) amine and 1,2,4,5 benzene tetracarboxylic acid.

46. The multimeric polypeptide according to claim 43, wherein the multimeric polypeptide comprises two to eight SCR3-derived polypeptides.

47. The multimeric polypeptide according to claim 43, which comprises $(Lys)_4$ $(Lys)_2$ Ala-OH linked through N-(ε-thiopropionyl) linkers that are disulfide bonded to cysteine thiol of the poly peptide SGGRKVFELVGEPSIYC.

48. A chimeric polypeptide comprising a host protein and an SCR3-derived polypeptide having 6 to 23 amino acid residues and comprising at least a portion of Sequence (I):

CNPGSGGRKVFELVGEPSIYCTSNDDQVGIWSG (I), wherein the polypeptide has at least one amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of:

(a) GGRKVF, and

(b) FELVGEPSIY, wherein the SCR3-derived polypeptide is inserted in a region of the host protein that is not essential to the overall architecture or folding pathway of a host protein.

49. The chimeric polypeptide according to claim 48, wherein the host protein contains at least one SCR repeat.

50. The chimeric polypeptide according to claim 48, wherein the host protein is a plasma protein.

51. The SCR3-derived polypeptide according to claim 37, wherein the SCR3-derived polypeptide is selected from the group consisting of:

linear CNPGSGGRKVFELVGEPSIYC;

cyclic CNPGSGGRKVFELVGEPSIYC;

SGGRKVFELVGEPSIYC;

CGGRKVFC; and

FELVGEPSIYSTSNDDQVGIWSG.

52. A process for preparing an SCR3-derived polypeptide having 6 to 23 amino acid residues and comprising at least a portion of Sequence (I):

CNPGSGGRKVFELVGEPSIYCTSNDDQVGIWSG (I), wherein the polypeptide has at least one amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of:

(a) GGRKVF, and (residues 6-11 of SEQ ID NO:1)

(b) FELVGEPSIY, (residues 11-20 of SEQ ID NO:1) comprising the step of:

condensing peptide units.

53. A process for preparing an SCR3-derived polypeptide having 6 to 23 amino acid residues and comprising at least a portion of Sequence (I): (SEQ ID NO:1)

CNPGSGGRKVFELVGEPSIYCTSNDDQVGIWSG (I), wherein the polypeptide has at least one amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of:

(a) GGRKVF, and (residues 6-11 of SEQ ID NO:1)

(b) FELVGEPSIY, (residues 11-20 of SEQ ID NO:1) comprising the step of:

expressing DNA encoding the SCR3-derived polypeptide in a recombinant host cell, and

recovering the SCR3-derived polypeptide.

54. A polynucleotide encoding an SCR3-derived polypeptide having 6 to 23 amino acid residues and comprising at least a portion of Sequence (I): (SEQ ID NO:1)

CNPGSGGRKVFELVGEPSIYCTSNDDQVGIWSG (I), wherein the polypeptide has at least one amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of:

(a) GGRKVF, (residues 6-11 of SEQ ID NO:1) and

(b) FELVGEPSIY. (residues 11-20 of SEQ ID NO:1)

55. The polynucleotide according to claim 54, wherein the polynucleotide is in an expression vector.

56. The polynucleotide according to claim 54, wherein the polynucleotide is in an expression vector and the expression vector is in a host cell.

57. A pharmaceutical composition comprising

(1) a therapeutically effective amount of an SCR3-derived polypeptide having 6 to 23 amino acid residues and comprising at least a portion of Sequence (I): (SEQ ID NO:1)

CNPGSGGRKVFELVGEPSIYCTSNDDQVGIWSG (I), wherein the polypeptide has at least one amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of:

(a) GGRKVF, (residues 6-11 of SEQ ID NO:1) and

(b) FELVGEPSIY, (residues 11-20 of SEQ ID NO:1) and

(2) a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or excipient.

58. A method of treating a patient, comprising

administering to the patient a therapeutically effective amount of an SCR3-derived polypeptide having 6 to 23 amino acid residues and comprising at least a portion of Sequence (I):

CNPGSGGRKVFELVGEPSIYCTSNDDQVGIWSG (I), wherein the polypeptide has at least one amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of:

(a) GGRKVF, and

(b) FELVGEPSIY

59. The method according to claim 58, wherein the patient suffers or is a risk for from inflammation or deleterious complement activation.

60. The method according to claim 58, wherein the patient suffers from or is at risk for a thrombotic condition.

61. The method according to claim 58, wherein the patient suffers from or is at risk for a hyperacute allograft or hyperacute xenograft rejection.

62. The method according to claim 58, wherein the patient suffers from or is at risk for adult respiratory distress syndrome.

63. The method according to claim 58, wherein the patient suffers from tissue wounds.

64. The method according to claim 58, wherein the patient suffers from or is at risk for Alzheimer's disease.

65. The method according to claim 58, wherein the patient suffers from or is at risk for CNS inflammatory disorders.